

SACRAMENTO VALLEY



The Sacramento Region:

- *Provides 60%, or 22 million acre-feet of water flowing into the Delta.*
- *Provides water supply for much of California from Sacramento Valley runoff.*
- *Offers major habitat/spawning ground for several threatened and endangered fish species.*
- *Contributes significantly to the state's farmlands and agriculture output.*
- *Provides major resting areas for the Pacific flyway waterfowl.*
- *Provides a dynamic hydrologic interaction between rivers and aquifers, which benefits fisheries, habitat, and wildlife.*

Innovative Partnerships

Several integrated regional programs emerged from the Sacramento Valley during 2002 that will help meet local water needs for farms, wildlife refuges, cities and local communities and the environment. Many of these programs will help implement the CALFED Plan and will provide benefits to the Bay-Delta and the rest of the state. These exciting and innovative partnerships include the Sacramento Valley Water Management Forum, the Northern Sacramento Valley Water Forum, the Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum, Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition, and the Sacramento River Watershed Program.

Regional Priorities and Issues

- Enhance regional water supply reliability and flexibility by improving water diversions for agriculture, environmental, urban uses and local water-short areas prior to export to other areas.
- Protect source water quality and preserve water rights.
- Improve flood management through watershed, habitat, and levee restoration, surface storage, and fish barrier removal for better protection of agriculture and urban areas.
- Preserve water quality through source control, mine remediation and water use efficiency for all beneficial uses.
- Enhance the Sacramento River recreational fishing and local economic development.
- Increase local resource development by local/regional/ CALFED partnerships in all areas of the watershed.
- Provide regulatory certainty associated with participation in conservation easements and habitat restoration.

Statewide Benefits:

Many Sacramento Valley actions directly benefit other regions. These include:

- Creating new surface storage, which when used conjunctively with groundwater storage, will improve water quality and flexibility for water supply reliability.
- Improving diversions with fish-friendly screens and barrier removal and other habitat improvements contributes to greater overall populations of salmon in the Sacramento River and Bay-Delta system, allowing for better water supply reliability throughout the state.
- Upper watershed management improves water supply reliability and water quality for the Delta system.

Regional Accomplishments



Water Supply Reliability

- Partnerships forged for groundwater planning with local agencies in six areas.
- Work initiated on 22 groundwater management and groundwater storage projects.
- Progress made on studies for potential north-of-Delta off-stream storage and Shasta Lake enlargement. The proposed projects are among five surface storage options being studied to increase storage capacity and provide flexibility to the state's water system.
- \$11 million in grants awarded for agricultural and urban water use efficiency programs.
- Key achievements made on streamlining water transfers and facilitating transfer agreements that protect local water users, economies and ecosystems.



Water Quality

- \$595,000 invested in local project to protect drinking water quality and watershed health on Steelhead Creek in Sacramento County.
- Sanitary surveys completed for State Water Project and its key sources, including the Sacramento River watershed. Surveys identified potential threats to water quality.
- Pilot study underway on options to reduce dissolved organic carbon and nitrogen exports from rice fields.
- Research funded through Ecosystem Restoration Program to investigate mercury and other pollutants from abandoned mines.



Ecosystem Restoration and Watersheds

- \$172 million invested in 139 local ecosystem restoration projects. Funded projects, including over 50 projects to improve fish passage, restore habitat, monitor and assess watersheds.
- \$11.4 million invested in 40 local watershed projects addressing areas such as spawning gravel, floodplain management and watershed education and outreach.
- \$12 million provided for studies addressing mercury and other pollutants associated with abandoned mines.



Levee System Integrity

Though the Levee System Integrity Program is focused on the Bay and Delta regions, investments there benefit other regions and the state as a whole.



Fish movement studies at UC Davis Research Facility.